

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7, 8, 11-13 and 26 are being canceled.

Although both box 2a and box 2b were checked on the Office Action Summary, this is a non-final rejection, since it is the first Office Action following the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

From the discussion at lines 2-3, page 7 of the Office Action, it appears that the Examiner considers a wet processing apparatus 1 described in the cited Inoue et al. reference to be capable of either an alkaline or an organic developing process.

However, the cited reference Inoue et al., paragraph [0038], describes only an alkaline developing process. No organic developing process is ever described.

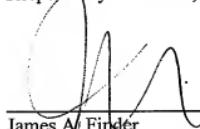
Although an organic solvent is mentioned in paragraph [0038] of Inoue et al., this solvent is not related to the developing process, but rather is related to a rinsing process.

Therefore, none of the cited references describes the structure now recited in claims 17 and 21, expressly reciting the combination of an alkaline developing solution and an organic developing solution, and a source of a replacing solution, wherein a common replacing solution is used for processing the substrates, whether developed by the alkaline developing process or by the organic developing process. Consequently, allowance of claims 17-19, 21-23, 28 and 29 is requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
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JAF:lf

Respectfully submitted,



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